



# Victorian Poetry

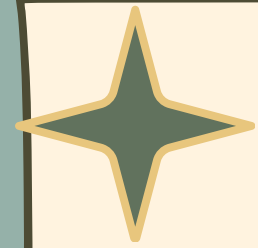




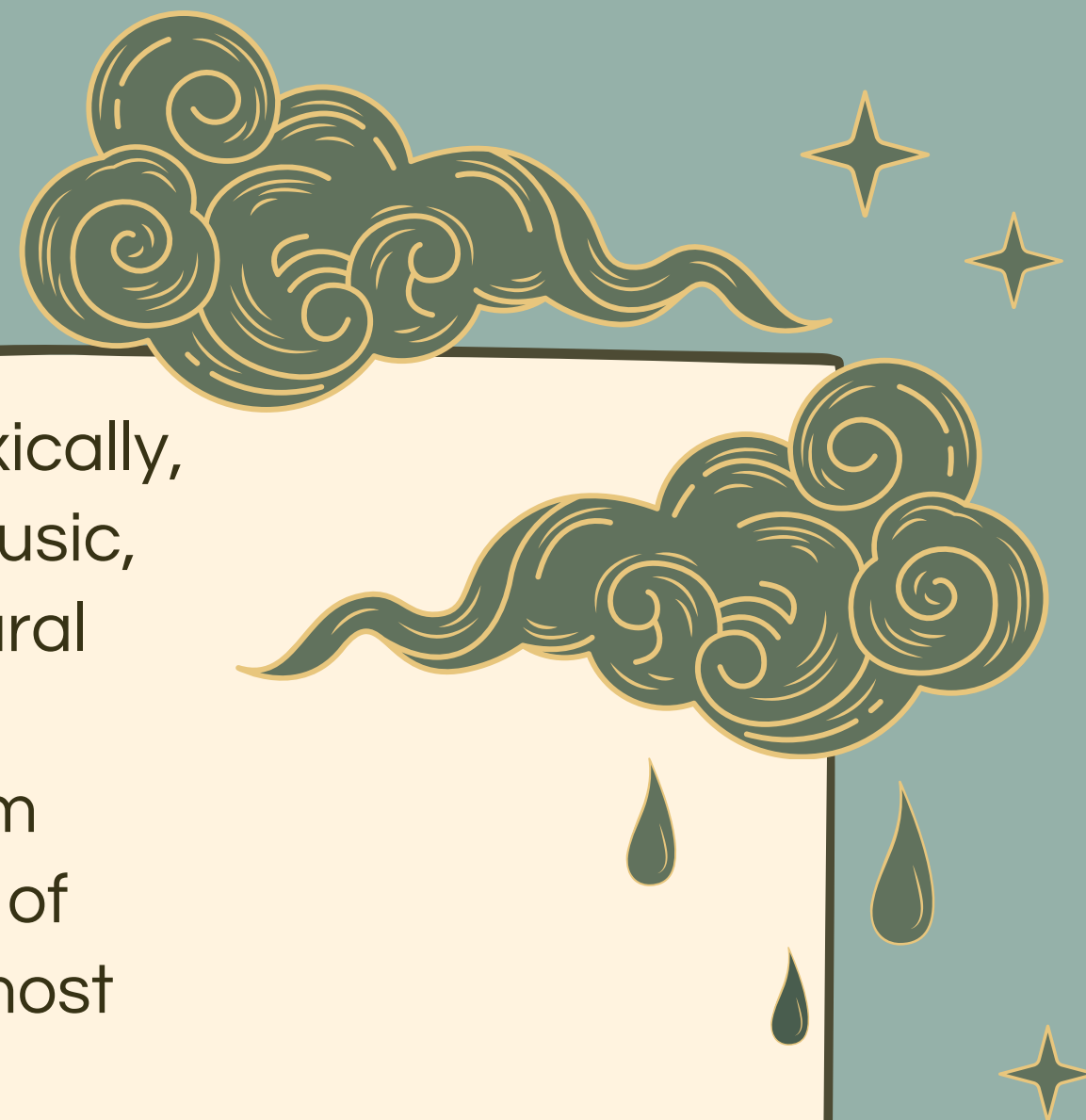
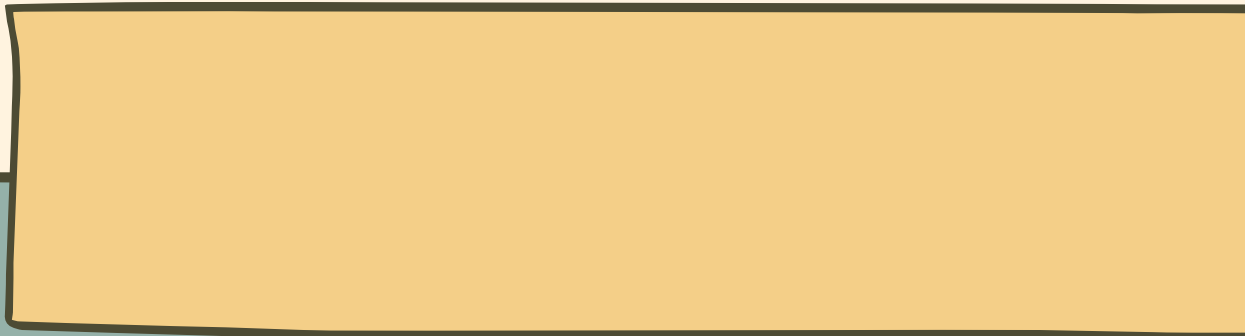
Victorian poetry, which flourished during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), reflected the changing social, political, and cultural landscape of the era.



Poets of this period, such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, often grappled with themes of morality, industrialization, and the challenges posed by rapid societal changes.



Victorian poetry's most distinctive qualities may stem, paradoxically, from its proximity to other genres and forms: theater, fiction, music, and art, all of them poetry's competitors in a fully stocked cultural marketplace. Asking in the 1833 essay "What Is Poetry?" the philosopher John Stuart Mill responded with terms pilfered from drama: "Poetry is feeling, confessing itself to itself, in moments of solitude. ... All poetry is of the nature of soliloquy." In the era's most heralded poetic innovation, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Robert Browning hybridized drama, fiction, and lyric into the dramatic monologue form: a poet impersonates a fictional or historical character and addresses a silent audience with her own framing or guidance.



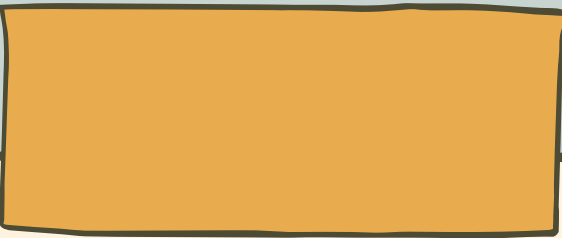
Victorian poetry frequently addressed the complexities of human experience, delving into the struggles of the working class, the impacts of urbanization, and the evolving role of women in society. Poets explored themes such as love, loss, faith, and the quest for meaning, often employing intricate formal structures and richly detailed imagery to convey their messages.





Furthermore, the Victorian poets, influenced by the spirit of the age, aimed to strike a balance between the celebration of progress and the preservation of traditional values. Their works often demonstrated a fusion of optimism and skepticism, grappling with the tensions between faith and doubt, progress and nostalgia. As the century progressed, Victorian poetry also witnessed the rise of themes related to social reform, reflecting the growing awareness of issues like child labor, poverty, and women's rights.

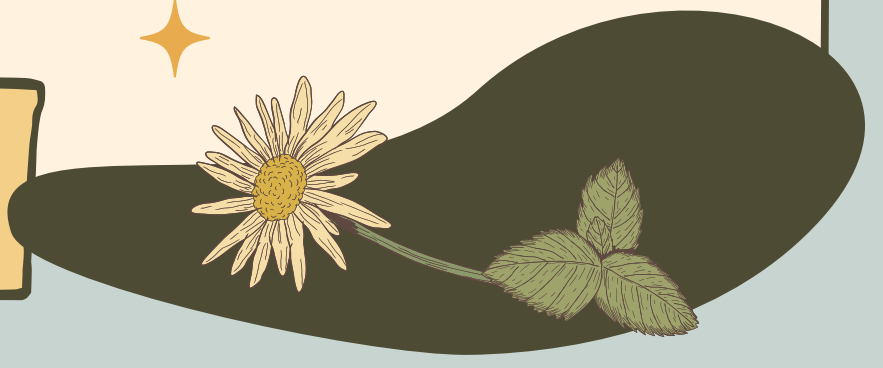
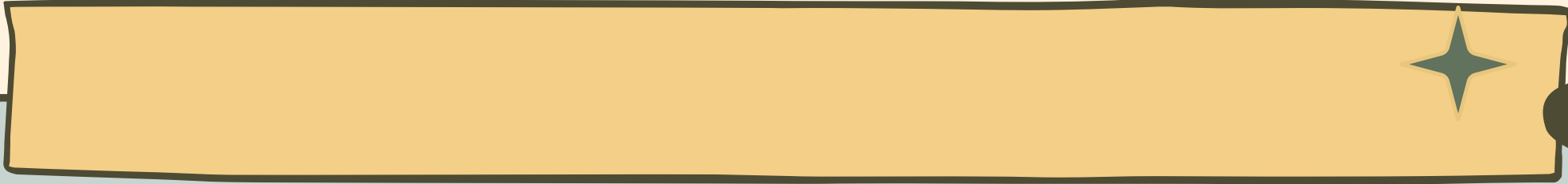


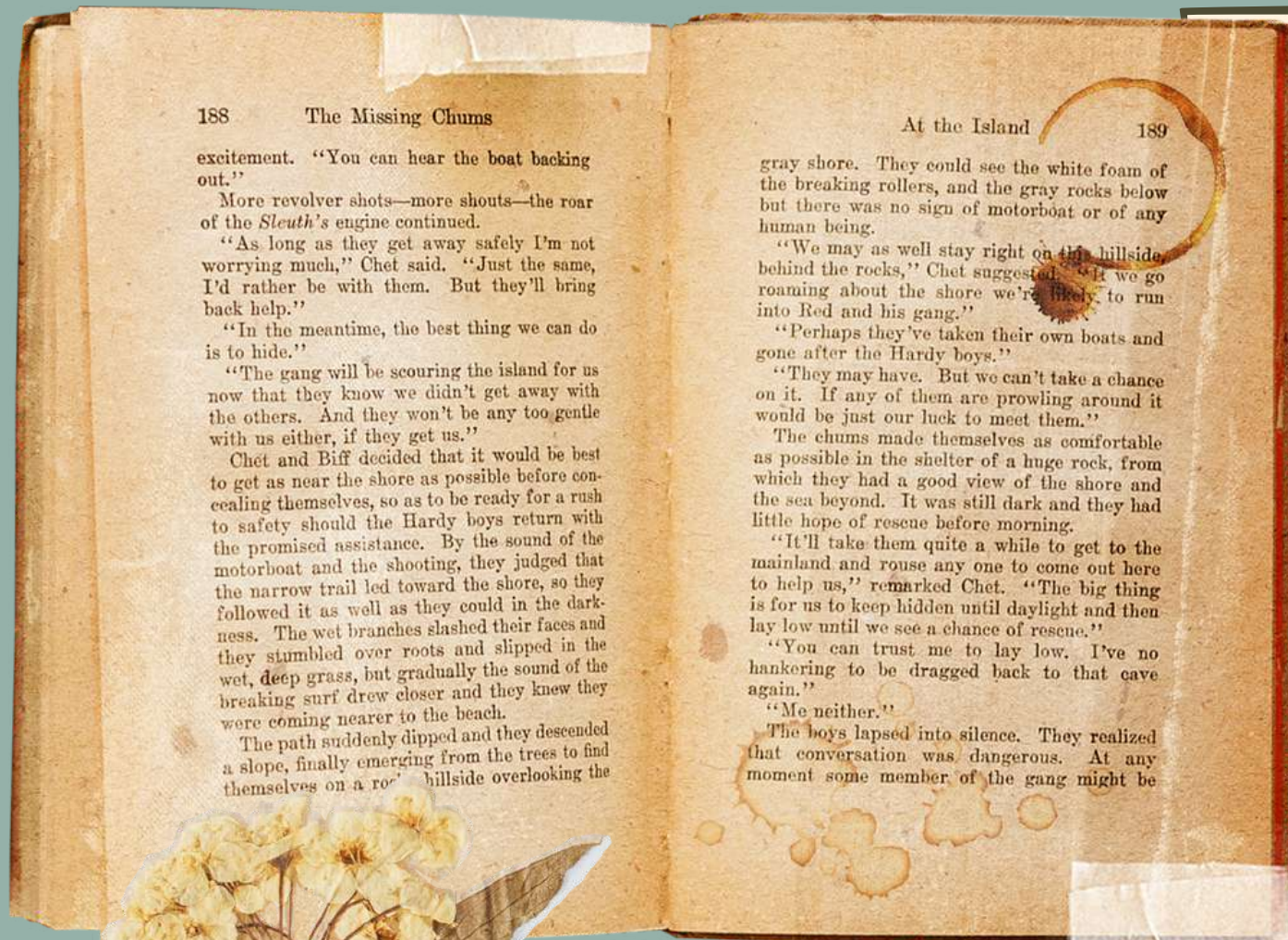


Victorian poetry employs more humor and whimsy than the prior Romantic Period. Despite the whimsy, in the Victorian Era, poetry and literature take a more harsh and utilitarian view of nature and philosophy



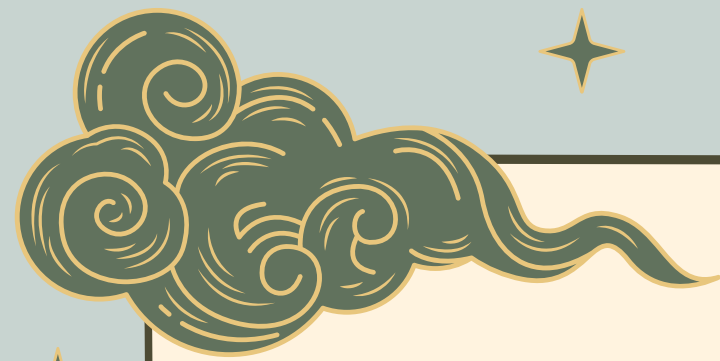
Victorian form favored narrative and length over the short, lyric poems that were popular in Romantic poetry. They emphasized imagery less, and instead they focused on meter and rhythm. Themes were much more realistic, identifying emotions such as isolation, despair and general pessimism.





Several factors that influenced Victorian poetry and literature were the conflicts between scientific discoveries, such as evolution, and faith, the industrialization of nations and a growing social consciousness about reform movements for better working conditions for women and children.

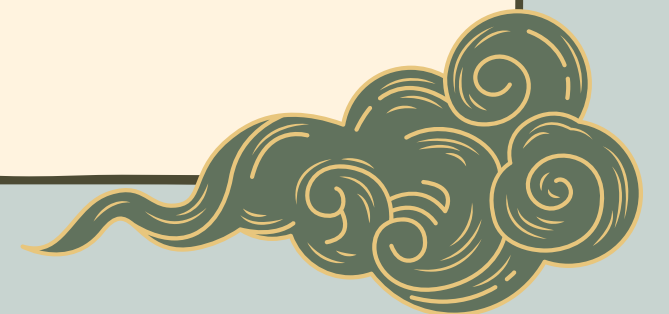


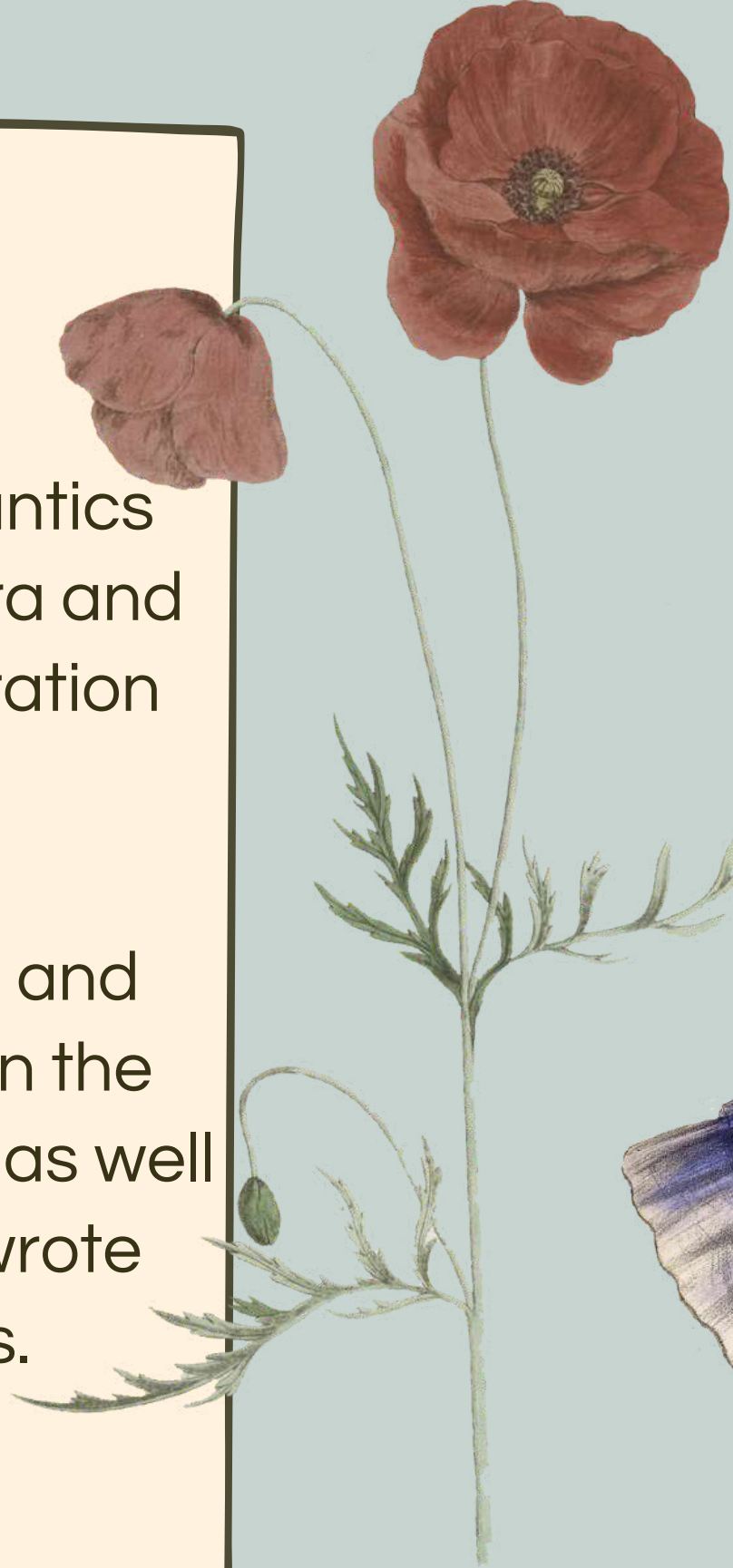



★ Even though many Victorian poets struggled with a loss of faith, there was still a sense of high morality that they held close and revered. Victorian poets were interested in classical and medieval literature. They loved the heroic stories and courtly attitudes. Through their writing, they tried to encourage readers toward more noble actions and attitudes.






The Victorian Poetry was quite realistic in nature and quite less idealized as compared to the Romantic Poets who were idealists and believed in Art for the Art Sake





Nature, that was everything for the Romantics lost that idealized status in the Victorian era and became just a source of leisure and inspiration for the poets.

Romantic Poetry mainly focused on rural and rustic life. It is no way related to city life. On the other hand, Victorian poets used language as well as themes common to city life and thus wrote about the masses and for the masses.





The Romantics believed in “return in nature”. A number of the Romantics did not like the city life and instead of giving voice to the victims of industrialisation, they left the city life. On the other hand, Victorian poets took the responsibility of social reform and gave voice to the commoners by living with them.



The Victorians showed great favour towards Medieval Literature. They loved mythical and chivalrous anecdotes of Medieval Knights, Courtly Love etc. This interest is on contrary to the of Romantics as the latter loved classical myths and legends.



Thank you!

